

NEW YORK TIMES

128 JUN

Dispute Over Nedzi Puts Future of House C.I.A. Inquiry in Doubt

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 17—The future of the House Select Committee on Intelligence Activities was cast into doubt today as Democratic leaders struggled to work out a compromise between Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, the committee chairman, who does not want the job, cannot resign, and six Democrats on the panel who find leadership unacceptable. Consideration of a resolution that would dissolve the five-month-old committee altogether was put off temporarily in House Rules Committee following a request by Speaker Carl Albert, who reportedly was talking and meeting informally with key Congressmen, including Mr. Nedzi, in a last-ditch effort to "reconstitute" the panel.

A number of alternatives to abolition were being discussed off the floor today by proponents intent on preventing an intelligence investigation in the House while surmounting the animosity between Mr. Nedzi, whose emotional resignation of his chairmanship was rejected by the House yesterday, and insurgent Democrats who believe that objectivity has been compromised.

The alternative solutions, which ranged from revamping membership of the panel, merging it with the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, or overshadowed, however, what several House aides described as a growing general disillusion with the internal bickering that has inhibited the committee's investigation and led to the impasse between Nedzi and its six other Democrats.

Doubt About Compromise An aide to Mr. Nedzi, a native Michigan Democrat, said today of the insurgents who is an apostate of the insurgents who is an apostate that he doubted whether any outspoken critic of the C.I.A. compromise would be acceptable let it be known privately today to the chairman.

"I think it's a little late for from the select committee's that," he said, adding that Mr. Nedzi had "made his position it would help keep the full clear" yesterday with his assets intact.

That subcommittee was established by Mr. Nedzi last week as a conciliatory move, him an accomplice of a charade."

One Democratic committee member said today he believed that the House's decision, by a lopsided vote of 290 to 64, to reject Mr. Nedzi's resignation had been not an accurate test of anticommittee sentiment in the House, but rather an affirmation of Mr. Nedzi's integrity, which the chairman had unnecessarily put on the line.

The committee member said that the task he and his Democratic colleagues on the panel faced was to persuade the House Democratic Caucus to intervene with the Rules Committee to prevent the abolition resolution, introduced yesterday by Representative R. F. Sisk, a California Democrat from reaching the House floor.

Influential members of the caucus are reportedly disturbed at the rejection of Mr. Nedzi by the select committee's Democratic membership, an uprising that they view as a threat to the orderly process of the House and, not incidentally, to their own power as a body to assign committee chairman.

That was the point at which Mr. Nedzi rebelled, proclaiming that he had been stripped of all the trappings of his chairmanship except for "a gavel and a title," and decided to announce his resignation.

Criticism of C.I.A. Viewed as Menace By Patriotism Unit

The National Committee for Responsible Patriotism said yesterday that recent criticism of the Central Intelligence Agency "is a far greater menace to freedom and privacy" than the reportedly illegal activities engaged in by the agency itself.

The group called on individuals, public figures and organizations to speak out in support of the nation's intelligence agencies and to write letters to members of Congress to do the same.

"The F.B.I., C.I.A. and other U.S. intelligence agencies are the 'good guys,'" the group said, in a position paper. "They've done very difficult and dangerous work with only occasional flaws — far fewer than could have been expected under the very difficult circumstances in which they operate. Their ranks include many unsung heroes, and we owe them our very freedom."

Mr. Wiley said that the group also supports a strong C.I.A. role abroad. "In the national debate about our intelligence community, almost totally ignored is one critical factor: we face an enemy that has already overrun half the world," he said.

The group, which was active in the late nineteen-sixties when it organized rallies and vigils in support of American men fighting in Vietnam, made its announcement at a news conference at the Commodore Hotel.

Charles W. Wiley, executive director of the group, said that the only objection he had to the C.I.A.'s activities, as reported in the Rockefeller commission's report last week, was the drug-testing program that resulted in the death of a Government employee after the agency administered a dose of LSD.